



NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Volume 7 Number 1

Dean B. Faber, Editor

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

An article I read recently went on at great length lamenting the lack of government support given studies of the ecology, behavior and systematics of insects. This set me thinking and I concluded that this could be viewed as a very pleasant state of affairs. Those studies involving pest species receive the vast bulk of government support. This leaves the overwhelming majority of potential entomology research projects "unfundable".

What results from this? The result is that much of the research in these areas has been done and hopefully will continue to be done by amateurs (literally one who does something for the love of it). The history of entomology is full of cases of individuals who did their ecology, behavior, and systematics research in their spare time: Thomas Say and Jean Henri Fabre are excellent examples. Some of these individuals were professional entomologists. Frank R. Cole, author of the monumental The Flies of Western North America was by profession an economic entomologist for whom taxonomy was an avocational interest.

The insects are so diverse and have so many families, that there is room within entomology for a variety of temperaments. Room for gregarious individuals who enjoy meeting others who share their interests, and room for hermits who enjoy being the only person working on a particular group or problem.

I think that the reality of limited financial support for non-applied entomology has a positive side. It means that the opportunities for amateurs to continue to contribute to the growth of entomology are potentially unlimited.

The NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published two to four times yearly at irregular intervals. Please send all news, notices, and contributions for the NEWSLETTER to: Editor, Wisconsin Entomological Society NEWSLETTER, c/o Insect Research Collection, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

FORUM:

The Logo of WES

I'd like to respond and comment upon the "Forum" column in Volume 6, No. 1. I will begin by confessing a special interest and prejudice in favor of retaining the official logo of WES, namely because I designed it (with some collaboration from the late Lutz Bayer).

True, the insect represented in the logo is "rather stylized", and "difficult to assign to order". The reason for this may not be evident. The insect was constructed from the initials of WES. The head and antennae are formed from the "W"; the left side of the thorax and abdomen are formed from an "E" (with the right side its mirror-image); and the left wing(s) is the "S" (again with a mirror image on the right). If an order assignment is required, I would opt for Lepidoptera, and probably a swallowtail butterfly, due to the knobbed antennae and posterior tails. This is particularly suitable because I think it's safe to say that the greatest number of our members have a major interest in the Lepidoptera. I have had second thoughts about the rest of the design myself. I think that an encircling hexagon might have been more appropriate than the octagon used, because of the concern of our group with 6-legged creatures. Artistically, however, the octagon works best.

In any case, a logo need not always be (and, in fact, usually is not) a realistic representation of an existing object, witness, for example, the logo of the Entomological Society of America. It is symbolic only. An additional consideration is the idea of continuity and "tradition" that the logo symbolizes. As I remember, the design was officially adopted by the Society in late 1972, and thus has a "tradition" of 6 years behind it.

My suggestion is that if a movement to change the logo of WES does grow, then the entire membership be given a series of several designs to choose from, and that the current symbol be included in the choices to give those of us who may favor its retention a chance to cast a positive vote.

Sincerely,
James W. Mertins

(My thanks to Jim for enlightening me on the history and symbolism of the logo of the society. I would still favor the adoption of a specific insect to symbolize our society, but will not push this idea in the absence of a movement for a change from among the membership. editor.)

NOTICE:

For Sale or Exchange Collection of papers on Lepidoptera (about 1100)
All families, worldwide, late 1800's to present. R.A.Rahn, 411 W.
Stuart, Wausau, Wi. 54401. 842-9545

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY-XV

By James W. Mertins

An earlier installment of this series (Number V-January, 1975) set forth the history of the Milwaukee Entomological Society from its founding in 1934. It seems appropriate, then, that in this, the last installment of the series, we should document the development of WES, the younger sister society to MES.

The Wisconsin Entomological Society was founded in 1968, as the Dane County Entomological Society. Local Madison attorney-at-law, William E. Sieker, and U.W. Entomology Professor, Robert J. Dicke, were instrumental in founding and organizing the group. Bill Sieker is a world authority on the moth family, Sphingidae, with one of the largest collections of the group in the United States. Seventeen people attended that first organizational meeting on December 7, 1968, in Russell Labs on the UW-Madison campus. Bill was appointed Acting-President.

At the March, 1969, meeting, the Society officially decided to broaden its sphere of interest and adopt the name Wisconsin Entomological Society to better serve the people of the entire state.

The first official elections were held in November, 1969, and Bill officially elected President. Other officers were: Vice-President, Kenneth MacArthur; Secretary, Rosemary Fleming; Treasurer, Robert Dicke; and Councilmen, Stephen C. Kleene, Lutz J. Bayer, and Cliff Dennis. Bill also saw to it that the fledgling group had an official constitution which was soon adopted, and first published and distributed to members in February, 1971. At the January, 1971 elections, Richard P. Narf (aquatic biologist for WDNR) was chosen President, and James K. Lawton (Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Milwaukee Public Museum) was chosen Vice-President. Lutz J. Bayer became the first editor of the WES NEWSLETTER and the first issue of that series appeared in the Spring of 1971.

According to the Constitution, the purpose of WES is "to promote the study of entomology in all its branches, especially as it applies to Wisconsin and the surrounding states; to facilitate and encourage the exchange of specimens and ideas by both professional and amateur entomologists," to publish periodicals and papers in entomology, and promote entomological conservation. Apparently the group was serving its purpose well, for in that first NEWSLETTER the list of charter members appeared, and included 57 names of people with varied backgrounds, divergent entomological interests, and addresses throughout Wisconsin and 5 other states. Activities and programs those first 3 years included such things as Microlepidoptera, a cocoon hunt, close-up insect photography, pesticides, creating fiberglass insect models, field trips to Ferry Bluff (sugaring) and the Sieker Farm (day collecting), Nigerian insects, forest pest control, gynandromorphs, butterflies of Wisconsin, beekeeping, aquatic insects and pollution, Neuroptera, insect films, orchid pollination, and biological illustration.

Monthly meetings (except January, June, July, and August) have been held with continuity for 10 years at Russell Laboratories on the UW-Madison

campus. Both the Ferry Bluff and Sieker Farm collecting trips have become almost annual events, and several joint meeting with MES at the Milwaukee Public Museum have taken place.

Officers for 1972 were Lutz Bayer, President, and Harry C. Coppel, Vice-President. Lutz was Curator of the Insectarium at Madison, and Prof. Coppel is a university faculty member specializing in biological control.

In 1973 Prof. Coppel became President, and Prof. Clifford Dennis from UW-Whitewater was elected Vice-President. The Society felt a great sadness when immediate Past-President Lutz Bayer was killed in an automobile accident in the Spring of 1973. Jim Mertins stepped in to take over the open editorship of the NEWSLETTER, and continued in that capacity until 1977. By the end of 1973, WES had approximately 80 members. During the year, WES co-sponsored a fund drive to pay for binding and deposition of Lutz Bayer's papers and books in the Fluke Memorial Library in the Entomology Department.

Officers for 1974 included Jim Mertins, President, and Barnaby Fluke, Vice-President. In December 1974, a petition from the Milwaukee Entomological Society was accepted, and MES officially became and affiliate of WES.

President for 1975 was Ralph Howard; Herb Grimek was Vice-President. The membership list issued in May showed 89 members, including 1 library; fifteen members resided outside Wisconsin in 10 states and 3 other countries. During May, WES also became an official affiliate of the Entomological Society of America, the national professional group of entomology in the USA.

In 1976, Ken MacArthur was elected President, and Herb Grimek was reelected Vice-President. A membership drive during the year raised the rolls above 100 for the first time. On July 25-28, 1976, WES and the UW Department of Entomology co-sponsored a successful Madison visit by the national Lepidopterists' Society for their annual meeting. Efforts were largely co-ordinated by Walt Gojmerac and Bill Sieker.

For 1977, the President was Bill Hilsenhoff, UW Professor of (aquatic) Entomology, and Herb Grimek again served as Vice-President. In December, 1977, following a suggestion by Pres. Hilsenhoff, and further efforts on his part, WES held its first Annual Meeting. The successful Saturday afternoon event featured the typical business of our previous annual meetings, plus several interesting entomological presentations, refreshments and an evening dinner, all in an attempt to attract some of the out-of-town WES members to a program worthy of their extra efforts to attend. Finally, during 1977, WES became an official affiliate of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters.

In 1978, Bill Sieker, our first President, also became the first to serve a second term in that office; Glenn Esenther (entomologist at the U.S. Forest Products Lab) was elected Vice-President, and Dean Faber volunteered to take over as editor of the NEWSLETTER.

NOTICE:

For Sale: Fine hand finished insect and spider photographs, mounted and ready to frame. Representatives from most of your favorite orders, all in natural settings, feeding, mating, etc. Ask about specific families, genera, species. Black and white, \$15. to \$40. Clearance of un-mounted "seconds", as-is, from \$3. Charles Behnke, Rt. 2 Box 152, Dodgeville, Wi. 53533, (608) 583-2893

INSECT DIAGNOSTIC LAB OPENS

by Phil Pellitteri

An Insect Diagnostic Lab has been functioning since May 15, 1978 in the Department of Entomology. The lab, which is an extension service, has been established to provide accurate identification and diagnostic services to the people of the state, with a special emphasis to the county extension offices. The lab is set up to work with the county agents in diagnosing all pest problems where assistance is requested by the county office.

An attempt is made to provide complete background information rather than just identifying the pest problem. This includes life history and basic biological information about the insect as well as suggestions for remedial action if required, as recommended by the extension staff.

Over 2,000 inquiries were handled in 1978. At present the lab is staffed by Phil Pellitteri, an M.S. graduate from the Department of Entomology, and a member of the WES. Although the lab's major thrust is working with county extension staff, specimens are accepted from any source, and telephone inquiries are welcomed.

THE NATURALISTS' DIRECTORY

The Naturalists' Directory is a publication which should be of interest to many of our members. It is a list of naturalists in the United States and many foreign countries which gives their name, address, and a description of their interests. Also included is information on whether they are interested in corresponding, exchanging specimens, or buying and selling specimens. The directory is arranged by state for the United States, and by country for the rest of the world. There is also an index of individuals arranged according to their area of interest.

Now in its 43rd edition, the Directory has a long history of helping naturalists to find and contact others who share their specific interests. The cost of the Directory is \$7.95 a copy. This includes the right to have one's own name and interests entered in the directory. Write to: The Naturalists' Directory International, P.O. Box 583, South Orange, N.J. 07079, including a check or money order and a statement of your interests.

WES February Meeting

The Wisconsin Entomological Society February meeting will be held in room 150 Russell Labs, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison. The speaker will be Ms. Marsha Lisitza of the UW-Madison Department of Entomology. Her topic will be: "The History of Bubonic Plague in the United States". The date and time of the meeting are Tuesday February 13 at 7:30 P.M.

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Saturday December 2, 1978

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Vice-President Glenn Esenther. The first order of business was the election of officers for the coming year. The slate of officers prepared by the Executive Council was as follows:

Walter Gojmerac - President
Jane Harrington - Vice-President
Phillip Pellitteri - Secretary
Leslie Ferge - Treasurer

Glen Esenther - Councilman (three year term expiring 1981)

There being no additional nominations from the floor, it was moved by Bill Hilsenhoff, seconded by Richard Narf that the nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the proposed slate of officers. Motion passed.

There was considerable discussion about the future of the annual meeting, and it was agreed that next year the meeting should be held on November 3 to avoid conflicts with home football games, the deer hunting season, the national meetings of the Entomological Society of America, and potential snowstorms. It was felt that early planning would help promote attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. and the program commenced according to schedule.

Program

There were 17 persons in attendance. The "Insects in the Arts" presentation was not presented because Mike Wagner did not return from the E.S.A. meetings in Houston in time. Due to a misunderstanding, the only refreshment provided at the coffee break was coffee. The program was as follows:

Walter Gojmerac - "History of Beekeeping in Wisconsin"
William Hilsenhoff - "Saga of the Clear Lake Gnat"
Richard Narf - "Drumming Behavior of Stoneflies"
Leslie Ferge - "Winter Moths of Wisconsin"
Glenn Esenther - "On Unravelling Termite Behavior"

Dinner

Dinner was served to the group at the Lantern Inn. There was no program, just a lot of informal conversation. Fifteen were present at the dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

William Hilsenhoff
Acting Secretary

Publications of Interest:

How to Know the True Bugs (Hemiptera - Heteroptera).
James A. Slater and Richard M. Baranowski. 1978.
256 pages, 496 figures. The Pictured Key Nature Series.
Wm. C. Brown Company Publishers. Dubuque, Iowa.
\$7.95, hardbound. \$5.95, spiral bound, softcover.

The authors have produced a book which everyone interested in the Hemiptera should have. The Hemiptera are undoubtedly the most diverse of the hemimetabolous orders, occupying a tremendous variety of habitats and exploiting an equally tremendous number of food sources. The book includes a key to the North American families and keys to the common genera within each family. The Miridae are an exception, there is a key to all the North American genera. There are a great many well done figures (496), seemingly one for each genus covered. There is a brief discussion of the biology of each family and a list of references giving more information on each family. Also covered are collecting techniques, preservation and labeling, morphology, and life cycles. Highly recommended.

Hymenoptera. Introduction and Key to Families.
O.W. Richards. 1977. Second (revised) edition.
100 pages, many figures. Royal Entomological Society of London.
7.00 (Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects,
Vol. VI, Part 1.)

This is the revised edition of the introduction to a series of works on the Hymenoptera of Britain. The first edition appeared in 1956 and the text has been completely revised to incorporate much new data on morphology, behavior and taxonomy. There is an introduction to the order, a key to the families, a number of line drawings covering all the important diagnostic characters, and extensive material on the comparative morphology of the order. Also included is a section on life histories, a list of references, and a glossary.

Butterflies and Moths. Engravings by Christian Sepp and his son Jan Christian Sepp. Text by Stuart McNeill. 235 pages, 106 facsimile color plates from the first seven volumes of Beschouwing der wonderen Gods... 1762. Michael Joseph Ltd., London. 1978. 11.95

This reproduction of the Sepps' work received a rave review in the Entomologist's Gazette. Here are some excerpts from that review:

"... a book which is not only of considerable scholarship but of the most beautiful workmanship in the technical field of printing.

Great pains have been taken not only in the reproduction of some of the most lovely hand-coloured plates which have ever appeared in the field of entomology but the prefatory material and binding, even to the endpapers, have obviously been chosen with loving care..."

"If you have any feelings for such things, buy it!"

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print:

Last Name First Name
Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Organization represented (if any)

Title or Occupation Phone: (include area code)

_____ Individual membership (\$2.00 per year)
_____ Organization membership (\$10.00 per year)
_____ Sustaining membership (\$5.00 per year)
_____ Patron membership (\$25.00 or more per year)

General Interest Area

_____ Aquatic Insects _____ Collecting and/or Taxonomy
_____ 4-H or Scout Member _____ Insect Photography
_____ Extension Worker _____ Physiology
_____ Life History, Biology, & Behavior _____ Apiculture
_____ Other _____ Pest Control
Specify _____

Specific Interests (Order, Family, Genus) _____

If you are an authority for certain insect taxa, would you be willing to
identify Wisconsin specimens for members? _____ Yes _____ No

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Entomological Society and mail to the
Treasurer, Wis. Entomol. Soc., Dept. of Entomology, 237 Russell Labs., U. Wisc.,
Madison, Wisc. 53706 .